

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel non-elected claims 12-15 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Bi 1. (currently amended) A An isolated or purified peptide fragment or a series of partial sequence of said peptide fragments having a cell death-inhibitory activity, said peptide ~~fragment~~ or said ~~series~~ partial sequence of peptide ~~fragments~~ having cell death-inhibitory activity comprising the amino acid sequence consisting of 103 amino acid residues at the C-terminal of selenoprotein P, or having said amino acid sequence with one or several amino acid residues therein being deleted, substituted or added, or having a partial sequence of either of the above amino acid sequences and having cell-death inhibitory activity.

2. (currently amended) The isolated or purified peptide fragment or a series of partial sequence of said peptide fragments of claim 1, having the amino acid sequence of the formula (I):

Lys Arg Cys Ile Asn Gln Leu Leu Cys Lys Leu Pro Thr Asp Ser Glu
Leu Ala Pro Arg Ser Xaa Cys Cys His Cys Arg His Leu (SEQ ID NO:
1)

and/or the formula (II):

Thr Gly Ser Ala Ile Thr Xaa Gln Cys Lys Glu Asn Leu Pro Ser Leu
Cys Ser Xaa Gln Gly Leu Arg Ala Glu Glu Asn Ile (SEQ ID NO: 2)

wherein Xaa is selenocysteine, or having a partial sequence of
these the amino acid sequence having cell death inhibitory
activity of the amino acid sequences of formulas (I) or (II)

3. (currently amended) The isolated or purified peptide
~~fragment or a series of partial sequence of said peptide~~
~~fragments~~ of claim 1 or 2 wherein said peptide ~~fragment~~ or
B₁ partial sequence of said peptide ~~fragments~~ are derived from
plasma proteins.

4. (currently amended) The isolated or purified peptide
~~fragment or a series of partial sequence of said peptide fragments~~
of claim 1, wherein said peptide ~~fragment~~ or partial sequence of
said peptide fragments (a) are recovered in fractions of molecular
weight 10 kDa to 30 kDa by molecular size fractionation with
membrane; (b) have structures showing isoelectric points at between
pH 7 and pH 8 and at pH 8 or more in blood as a result of testing
of binding to ion exchange resin; (c) show two bands at molecular
weight 13 to 14 kDa and two bands at 16 to 17 kDa, the latter being
a glycosylated form of the former, in non-reductive SDS-PAGE; and

(d) have a band patter of 3 to 4 kDa, 7 to 9 kDa and 10 to 12 kDa in SDS-PAGE under reductive condition in addition to the bands (c).

5. (currently amended) The isolated or purified peptide fragment or ~~a series of~~ partial sequence of said peptide fragments of claim 1, wherein said peptide fragment or partial sequence of said peptide fragments correspond to the bands at 3 to 4 kDa, 7 to 9 kDa and 10 to 12 kDa in SDS-PAGE under reductive condition.

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6. (currently amended) A medicament for ~~protecting from exacerbation of conditions of,~~ preventing or treating diseases related to cell death, comprising as an active ingredient the isolated or purified peptide fragment or ~~a series of~~ partial sequence of said peptide fragments having the cell death-inhibitory activity of claim 1.

7. (currently amended) The medicament of claim 6 wherein said diseases are selected from AIDS, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, arteriosclerosis, and diseases in which reperfusion injury is observed ~~such as myocardial infarction, cerebral infarction or organ transplantation.~~

8. (currently amended) A medicament for ~~protecting from exacerbation of conditions of,~~ preventing or treating diseases

related to oxidation/reduction reaction, comprising as an active ingredient the isolated or purified peptide fragment or a ~~series of~~ partial sequence of said peptide fragments having the cell death-inhibitory activity of claim 1.

β₁ 9. (currently amended) A medicament for ~~protecting from~~ ~~exacerbation of conditions of,~~ preventing or treating diseases in which ~~cells of~~ the immune system ~~are~~ is involved, comprising as an active ingredient the isolated or purified peptide fragment or a ~~series of~~ partial sequence of said peptide fragments having the cell death-inhibitory activity of claim 1.

10. (currently amended) An additive for cell culture comprising as an active ingredient the isolated or purified peptide fragment or a ~~series of~~ partial sequence of said peptide fragments having the cell death-inhibitory activity of claim 1.

11. (original) A method for screening a cell death-inhibitory activity which comprises adding a candidate substance suspected of having a cell death-inhibitory activity to human megakaryoblast culture system with serum free medium supplemented with 0.01 to 0.5% albumin in which sudden cell death is observed, and (estimating) an extent of cell death inhibition induced thereby.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

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(Please add the following new claim:)

16. (new) The medicament of claim 7, wherein said diseases in which reperfusion injury is observed are selected from the group consisting of myocardial infarction, cerebral infarction and organ transplantation.
